



Long Stratton Town Council

Pavilion, Manor Road, Long Stratton, NR15 2XR

Chairman: Mr Kelly Lunness

Town Clerk: Mrs Becky Buck

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Queen's Jubilee 2022

Criticism received

- Badly advertised

The event was advertised on the Mardle, with posts advertising and asking for interested parties from February 2022. It was also in the Council newsletter and on the front page of the Sextons Wheel. One comment was that not everyone is on Facebook. The Council could look to open twitter and Instagram accounts to promote events etc.

- Not enough interesting stalls

All community groups were invited to come along to raise funds to help support them. The Council asked for anyone interested in having a stall to get in touch on the Mardle, on posters around the village and in the Sextons Wheel. We had 4 stalls pull out, 3 within 24 hours of the event. The Council's intention was to keep the event as cost neutral for all and therefore did not want to pursue craft stalls from out of the village which could then place pressure on parishioners having to spend money. However, in the future the Council could consider sending office members and/or attending other events to collect details of stall holders if that is what is requested from the community.

- Should have approached other groups such as ARTs and the High School & not enough performers

Councillor Mundford contacted ARTs and Office staff contacted the high school, neither wanted to participate. 6 bands were booked, 5 cancelled. None of the performers were being paid and therefore were giving up their free time to support the event. To guarantee performers, the Council may want to consider paying them, however this will put additional expenditure on the budget and potentially the Precept.

- No fair rides

It was discussed with Grey's funfairs that they may be able to provide a few rides however because it was not only the Queen Jubilee but half term week, sadly there were none available. Although Long Stratton is a growing community it cannot rival other fun fair locations where the fair will receive more money because it is substantially bigger.

- Costessey Town Council were able to provide 50+ stalls and rides and were exceptionally busy all day, why couldn't we?

The population of Costessey (Old and New) is 12,463 (Wikipedia), the population of Long Stratton is 4,400. Costessey also borders other large areas being a suburb of Norwich meaning that the event that they need to provide is going to be different to that Long Stratton can provide. Costessey also have numerous employees providing the man hours it takes to put on an event of that size. The Council could consider asking office staff to approach the Clerk at Costessey to gain tips for the next event.

- Posters could have contained the running order

This is something that can be considered for the next event.

- The day was too long

Having a shorter event is a valid option. The tombola which was believed to be well stocked sold out within 3 hours, as did some of the other stalls which supports the need for the event to have started later and more condensed. This is something the Council will need to consider for the next event dependent on the attractions present.

- Burger van was too busy and sold out of food.

The council provided 3 food outlets, the burger van, Doc Browns and Joy Thai to provide choice and options. On another occasion, it may be another food outlet that was more popular and que'd up. The Council cannot predict how popular one thing over another can be. If the Council had booked 3 burger vans there could have been complaints that there were no other options. Food outlets typically like to be the only type of food available as it is more economically favourable for them and as such if we had booked multiple burger vans then they may have pulled out believing it to be not worth their while.

- Town Council are not experienced enough to put on an event and should not have taken over from St Mary's Church and Village Hall who put on excellent events.

When the Council set the events committee up, it had representation from 3 members of the public, one being Rev Heather Willcox from St Mary's Church. It was the Council's intention to enhance the events that were occurring not take them over. The Council has never prohibited any other group doing their own event should they wish. The Council welcome help from any quarter and therefore if there is experience at St Mary's Church and the Village Hall then the Council could consider inviting them to the events committee.

- Not enough seating.

The Council may want to consider ordering additional hay bales.

Other things to think about.

- Having an official start time. Because the youth football tournament was starting at 11, although the performers weren't coming till 1.30 there wasn't clear guidance as to when the event started, and I believe was unclear to the community, causing confusion and the later arrivals did not then have things such as tombola as they had sold out.
- Buying proper event shelters, the gazebos were not strong enough and 1 snapped. Event shelters are designed for this and are easier to put up and down.
- When stalls arrive, placing them in order, makes it easier for spacing etc
- Additional soft drinks and water as they went very quickly during the afternoon.
- Tombola needs to be bigger.
- If we are to do community games again, it will need better structuring
- Need details of the PA system as when booking artists they ask for the details.
- Ensuring we have disabled parking and advertising it as we received 1 complaint that there was none available

What went well

- The free games were a hit all day, Bob on whack a rat has been thanked on social media for outstanding work.
- The bar was received positively, good prices and service with a smile.
- The community groups did well and were happy with their day.
- Judith's historical boards were amazing and positively received.
- The performers, live music and magician were good.
- The community games, children were engaged all day
- Everything was set up well and in an organised fashion, dismantling was also carried out efficiently.
- There were no huge ques anywhere.

Overall

It was a great event that was enjoyed by many and although it was not to everyone's liking we met the Council's objective of providing a fun event, which was as possible, cost free to the community knowing that many are struggling with the cost-of-living increases. We also helped to support local community groups in the village by providing them a platform where they can fundraise to support the longevity of their group or carry out essential repairs. The council staff had to manage a lot of last-minute cancellations and adapt accordingly and have worked tirelessly to make the jubilee happen. There are plenty of ways for the events to grow and the main decision will be, what is more important having plenty of attractions that cost money etc, to keep it as free as possible or where we can a balance of both.



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